Page 2

Sincerely,

LD Miller 4443 Ocean Dr. #119 Corpus Christi, Texas 78412 From: T J Moylan To: Mike Powell

Date: Thu. Apr 3, 2003 2:43 AM

Subject: Preserve Diversity and Openness in the Media and on the Internet

T J Moylan 1623 Riparian Naperville, **IL** 60565

April 3, 2003

Federal Communications Commission Chair Michael K. Powell 445 12th St SW Rm 8-A204 Washington, DC 20554

Chair Powell:

The Federal Communications Commission is responsible for ensuring that the media serve the public interest. I am concerned that the FCC is acting on behalf of big business rather than the people.

It is clear that the FCC has stepped up its efforts to de-regulate the media and telecommunications industries. You must act now to halt further media consolidation and to preserve the openness and diversity of the Internet.

As a supporter of women's rights, I am concerned that the current media merger free-for-all threatens to rob **us** all of the independent voices, views and ideas that nourish a pluralistic, democratic society. Ownership consolidation is squeezing out what little diversity remains in the marketplace.

The media are more than just a business; they bring information to people that affects their lives. We cannot have a healthy democracy, and women cannot pursue equal rights, if we are uninformed on the issues. The media have a responsibility to serve the public interest and ensure that all voices are heard. It is your job to promote this.

Please remember U.S. consumers and citizens when you review any further regulations. The media giants already control far too much of our precious information resources.

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Sincerely,

From: reality@informatics.net
To: Kathleen Abernathy
Thu Apr 3, 2003, 3:16 A

Date: Thu, Apr 3, 2003 3:16 AM

Subject: Preserve Media Diversity: Keep the FCC Rulemaking an Open Process

FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

Dear FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy,

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is currently considering sweeping changes to broadcast ownership rules. Repeal or significant modification of these rules would likely open the door to numerous mergers that could reduce competition and diversity in the media.

Before the media ownership rules are issued in final form, the public must have the opportunity to review and comment on any specific changes the Commission plans to make.

If media ownership rules are seriously weakened, one company in a town could control the most popular newspaper, TV station, and possibly even a cable system giving it dominant influence over the content and slant of local news. Such a move would reduce the diversity of cultural and political discussion in a community. It could also raise costs for businesses and candidates that use local media for advertising.

While the Commission issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on media ownership, it proposed no actual rule. Accordingly, no public comment has been received on any specific changes. We believe that additional input from the public will help the Commission see the strengths and weaknesses of any new approach.

I encourage you to provide a detailed description of all proposed changes, their empirical basis, and a meaningful period of time for the public to review and comment on any proposed changes before a final rule is issued.

The stakes for citizens and the nation are enormous. More information, not less, about proposed changes would best serve the public interest. Indeed, we hope the Commission would do everything in its power to keep the rulemaking process as open and inclusive as possible.

james m Nordlund 813 N. 5 St., #3 Stockton. Kansas 67669-1561 From: reality@informatics.net

To: Mike Powell

Date: Thu, Apr 3, 2003 3:23 AM

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FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

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james m Nordlund 813 N. 5 St., #3 Stockton, Kansas 67669-1561 From:

NadinB@aol.com

To:

Commissioner Adelstein, Michael Copps

Date:

Thu, Apr 3, 2003 4:03 AM

Subject:

Thanks for listening

Nadin Abbott 1979 D Hammond Cir Honolulu, HI 96818

Dear Sirs,

We do not need more media hyperconcentration. If anything we need Media Reform and the re-instition of Fair Access Laws.

May I remind you both that the FCC was created as a trust of the airwaves and to avoid what happened in Nazi Germany. I fear Clear Media Channel is in some ways akin to Hate Speech and suspention of Free Speech, or at least severe supresion of it.

I know most Americans do not know this little bit of FCC history... but I fear we have already well down the road to media that does nothing more than transmit one point of view (right wing) with the dangers to a democracy that come from the dominance of any ideology over the airwaves.

He who controls the microphone, controls the message

By the way, this is why I am thanking you for... you two had the guts to come out and listen.. and I thank you for your service. Remember, we are paying attention... and as a resource I recommend Allterman's What Liberal Media.

Respectfully yours,

Nadin Abbott

Tuesday, April 1, 2003 7:14AM ESTLocalswant media limits

Don Curtis, left. president of the Curtis Media Group, laughs at a dig on radio playlists with Raleigh musicians Bill Willis, center, and Tift Merritt, during a panel on diversity in media at Duke University law school.

Staff Photo by Harry Lynch

I wo FCC commissioners, Adelstein, left, and Copps, held the field hearing at Duke University. I	viariy
attending opposed liberalization.	

Vaughan, of a Durham cable TV board, supports rules

Jim Goodmon, a TV CEO, supports ownership variety

REGULATIONS ON TABLE

The FCC is considering revamping a half-dozen rules that were first set between **1941** and 1975. Here's what they are:LOCAL TV OWNERSHIP: Limits a company to owning one TV station in a market, except under specific circumstances.TV-RADIO CROSS-OWNERSHIP: Allows a company to own a TV and radio station in the same market but sets conditions on owning more.BROADCAST-NEWSPAPER CROSS-OWNERSHIP: A company can't own a daily newspaper and a **TV** or radio station in the same market.DUAL-NETWORK LIMIT: Prevents a merger between two of the top four television network.LOCAL RADIO OWNERSHIP CAP: Limits the number of radio stations a company can own, based on market size.NATIONAL TV OWNERSHIP CAP: No company can own TV stations that reach more than 35 percent of **U.S.** TV households.

WHO OWNS WHAT

These are the companies that control the major media in the Triangle.AQL Time Warnerwww.aoltimewarner.comHeadquarters: New YorkDescription: The biggest media company in the world, with properties including CNN and Time magazine, and studios including New Line Cinema and Castle Rock Entertainment. World's largest Internet service provider.* Time Warner cable" News 14 Carolina- Road Runner Internet accessCapitol BroadcastingCompanywww.cbc-raleigh.comHeadquarters: RaleighDescription: Owns five TV stations in North Carolina, operates a radio station and news network. and a has sports, marketing and other properties, including Durham Bulls baseball team and Microspace Communications, the world's largest satellite broadcasting network: WRAL-TV, CBS 5* WRAZ-N, Fox 50* WRAL-FM, Mix 101.5* N.C. News Nelwork: Produces news stories for more than 90 stations.* Capitol Network Satellite Service: Satellite program distribution and syndication.* Wolfpack Sports Marketing: Handles corporate marketing and sponsorship sales for NCSU athletics department. Clear Channelwww.clearchannel.comHeadquarters: San AntonioDescription: The largest radio operator in the nation with more than 1,200 stations and more than 110 million listeners every week.* WDUR-AM 1490 --Oldies' WRDU-FM 106.1 - Rock" WRSN-FM 93.9 --Adult contemporary* WDCG-FM G105 -- Pop' WTRG-FM 100.7 -- OldiesCurtis Media Groupwww.curtismedia.comHeadquarters: RaleighDescription: Operates North Carolina's largest network of stations. More than 1 million people in the state listen to one or more of its stations each week.' WBBB-FM 96.1 -- Rock* WDNC-AM 620 -- News talk" WCLY-AM 1550 -- Black gospel* WDNZ-AM 570 -- Newstalk" WKXU-FM 101.1 -- Country* WQDR-FM 94.7 --Country*WPTF-FM 680 -- News talk* WWMY-FM 102.9 -- '70s and '~Os\VMY-FM 96.9 - SpanishThe Durham Herald Companywww, heraldsun.comHeadquarters: DurhamDescription: Circulation of The Herald-Sun is 51,251 Monday through Saturday, and 57,861 on Sundays.* The Herald-Sun' Chapel Hill HeraldGeneral Electricwww.ge.comHeadquarters: Faitfield, Conn.Description: Through its NBC dvision. owns and operates 14 NBC-affiliated network stations in major U.S. markets.* WNCN-NBC17McClatchywww.mcclatchy.comHeadquarters: Sacramento, Calif.Description: Has 11 daily and 11 community newspapers with a combined circulation that averages 1.4 million daily and 1.9 million Sunday* The News & Observer' The Chapel Hill News' The Cary News* Eastern Wake News* Smithfield Herald Triangle.comPaxson Communicationswww.pax.tvHeadquarters: West Palm Beach, Fla.Description: Owns and operates 65 TV stations, the nation's largest broadcast station group, and PAX TV, the newest broadcast TV network, which reaches 86 percent of U.S. households, WRPX, Channel 47, Raleigh' WFPX, Channel 62, FayettevilleRadioOnewww.radio-one.comHeadquarters: Lanham, Md.Description: The largest radio broadcasting company in the country primarily targeting African-Americans. It owns or operates 65 stations in 22 markets. * WQOK-FM 97.5 -- Urban* WFXK-FM 104.3 -- Urban' WFXC-FM 107.1 -- Urban* WNNL-FM 103.9 -- GospelSinclair Broadcast Groupwww.sbgi.netHeadquarters: Hunt Valley, Md.Description: Owns and operates, programs or provides sales to 62 TV stations in 39 markets, reaching about 24 percent of U.S. households: WLFL, WB22, Raleigh' WRDC, UPN 28The Walt Disney Co.www.disney.comHeadquarters: Burbank, Calif. Description: The second-largest media conglomerate in the world, Disney owns ABC, 10 broadcast TV stations and more than 60 radio stations. It has stakes in ESPN and A&E Television Networks and its studios division includes Touchstone, Hollywood Pictures and Miramax.' WTVD, ABCIISOURCES: COMPANY WEB SITES, HOOVER'S

By JONATHAN B. COX. Staff Writer DURHAM -- Executives and activists at a Duke University hearing Monday had a resounding message for Washington: Don't let media companies get bigger. They warned two members of the Federal Communications Commission who came to hear their concerns that relaxing media ownership rules would hurt communities. Removing decades-old safeguards would spur consolidation and transfer programming decisions to corporate offices far away, eliminating room for local voices, they said."The concept is localism and as many different owners as we can have." said Jim Goodmon, chief executive of Capitol Broadcasting, which owns the CBS and FOX affiliates in the Triangle and radio station 101.5 FM. "Localism and, in turn, community standards are under direct fire from those advocating nationalism and corporate objectives. "The FCC is reviewing a half-dozen rules that limit ownership of the media, and it could reshape the news and entertainment people receive. The rules limit N network mergers, govern how many television and radio stations a company can own, and ban newspaper-broadcastcross ownership in the same market. Proponents of change say the restrictions. most adopted between 1941 and 1975, are outdated, given the variety of communications options provided by cable and satellite television and the Internet. They say the limits put broadcasters at a disadvantage, preventing them from responding to new competition Combining two television stations in a market, an act that is prohibited under most circumstances now, could actually increase the quality of news coverage, said Barry Faber, general counsel of Sinclair Broadcast Group. Stations could pool resources to provide more information in different formats. Opponents are "seeing a lot of evil, frankly, where I don't think there is any," Faber said. "Television companies make money by having more viewers. "The FCC appears poised to relax at least some of the rules as early as June 2. The three Republicans on the five-person panel have expressed an interest in giving the industry more latitude." think the media environment will have to be partially liberalized if you include all the factors you have to look at," FCC Chairman Michael Powell told reporters at a March 4 news briefing. "But I don't think there is going to be a sweeping elimination of them. "The agency must review all its rules under the requirements of at 1996 telecommunications law. Courts have also rejected some limits, instructing the FCC to take additional action. More than 150 people, according to unofficial estimates, turned out at Duke University's law school to tell FCC Commissioners Michael J. Copps and Jonathan S. Adelstein, the only two Democrats on the FCC, to reject efforts to liberalize ownership rules. For Goodmon, it's a partly a matter of protecting his business. He recently was unable to buy syndication rights to a couple of shows because a larger station group purchased them for all of its markets. If the FCC permits such companies to get larger, Capitol Broadcasting, which counts five television stations among its holdings, could have a harder time going up against rivals. What's more, the major networks could snap up stations across the country. he said, and dictate the programming aired. They could even end agreements with smaller companies such as Capitol, meaning, for example, WRAL would no longer be the CBS affiliate in the Triangle. "The more consolidation there is, the harder it is for us to compete." he said. Not all local media executives agree. Orage Quarles III, publisher of The News & Observer, says he supports relaxing at least one rule: the newspaper-broadcast cross ownership ban. It prevents a company from owning a daily newspaper and a television or radio station in the same market. The FCC has waived the restrictions in some places --Tampa, Fla., for example, "The media landscape has changed dramatically over the last 20 years." Quarles said. "The economics of our businesses have changed along with it" and the agency needs to create a "level playing field." Critics often point to the radio industry to illustrate what can happen when the government relaxes its reins on industry. After the FCC eliminated some rules in the mid-'90s, the number of radio station owners declined 33 percent to about 3,400 last year, according to FCC data. The dwindling number of local stations has made it harder for independent artists and homogenized the airwaves, critics say. Tiff Merritt is a struggling artist who has sought to get airtime on local country music stations. She said she has made inroads on the national stage, gaining exposure on Country Music Television, the cable network, for instance, and opening for superstars such as Willie Nelson. "If you haven't heard of me it may well be because I'm not on the radio," Merritt, a panelist, said. "You're going to lose thousands of people like me --they're going to be silenced by management playlists."Large radio companies reject such claims. U.S. radio stations debuted 550 new artist and 3,000 new songs last year, according to the National Association of Broadcasters, a lobbying group. And often the public wins with consolidation, said Michael Ward, general manager of WNCN. the local NBC affiliate, which is owned by the network. Before NBC bought the station about six years ago, it was a barely watched home-shopping network, he said.

Now it produces newscasts and provides programming from the top-rated network. Such arguments fell on deaf ears Monday. Activists held signs with phrases like" want more than your MTV" and "Don't deregulate, do diversify" to show their sentiments. "At this point, communications and airwaves is too sacred a trust to leave solely to the discretion of monopolies and giant corporations, "said James E. Vaughan. chairman of the Durham Cable Television Advisory Board.

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From: CCPERRYREVI@aol.com

To: Michael Copps

Date: Thu, Apr 3, 2003 6:07 AM **Subject:** Control of the airwaves

I've been reading about the frightening control that the conservatives supporting President Bush have of the people's airwaves in the United States. I am a teacher and a member of the clergy--- and have long taught that in our wonderful country people get to choose--- we support the people we choose to elect; we support our troops; we support our public servants. police, fire, and all representatives of the necessary protection agencies. But I always add, we all have information which helps **us** make a free choice--- and now I am learning **just** how pervasive the control of the religious right is--- many people in our country are not hearing diverse voices, they do not get the information needed to make informed decisions--- and that is because a few groups such as yours are controling hundreds of stations and decreeing that certain performers, certain voices may not be heard.

If this is true, we are back in an age of "Mc Carthy ism"-- and we are closer to the form of government of a dictator than a democracy.

Please help to keep America a democracy where we all are able to learn every side of an issue through healthy media and newspaper reporting. If there is nothing to counter people like Rush Limbaugh, the American people remain stuck in ignorance and fear.

We are too great a country to fear an open press and news system on radio and television. I hope you are doing your best to keep information free and not restricted. thank you.

cc Perry

From: CCPERRYREVI@aol.com
To: Commissioner Adelstein
Date: Thu, Apr 3,2003 6:48 AM
Subject: Control of the airwaves

I've been reading about the frightening control that the conservatives supporting President Bush have of the people's airwaves in the United States. I am a teacher and a member of the clergy - and have long taught that in our wonderful country people get to choose -we support the people we choose to represent us in government; we support our troops; we support our public servants, police, fire, and all representatives of the necessary protection agencies, environmental agencies, scientific and medical agencies. But I always add, we have information which helps us make an informed choice - and now I am learning just how pervasive the control of the religious right is - many people in our country are not hearing diverse voices; they do not get the information needed to make informed decisions - and that is because a few groups such as yours are controlling hundreds of stations and decreeing that certain performers, certain voices may not be heard.

If this is true, we are back in an age of "McCarthy ism" and we are closer to the form of government of a dictator than that of a democracy.

Please help to keep America a democracy where we all are able to learn every side of an issue through healthy media and newspaper reporting. If there is nothing to counter people like Rush Limbaugh, the American people remain locked in ignorance and fear.

We are too great a country to fear an open press and news system on radio and television. I pray you are doing your best to keep information free and unrestricted.

Thank you.

C C Perry

From: wimhoa@charter.net
To: Kathleen Abernathy
Date: Thu, Apr 3,2003 7:01 AM

Subject: Preserve Media Diversity: Keep the FCC Rulemaking an Open Process

FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

Dear FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy,

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is currently considering sweeping changes to broadcast ownership rules. Repeal or significant modification of these rules would likely open the door to numerous mergers that could reduce competition and diversity in the media.

Before the media ownership rules are issued in final form, the public must have the opportunity to review and comment on any specific changes the Commission plans to make.

If media ownership rules are seriously weakened, one company in a town could control the most popular newspaper, *IN* station, and possibly even a cable system giving it dominant influence over the content and slant of local news. Such a move would reduce the diversity of cultural and political discussion in a community. It could also raise costs for businesses and candidates that **use** local media for advertising.

While the Commission issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on media ownership, it proposed no actual rule. Accordingly, no public comment has been received on any specific changes. We believe that additional input from the public will help the Commission see the strengths and weaknesses of any new approach.

I encourage you to provide a detailed description of all proposed changes, their empirical basis, and a meaningful period of time for the public to review and comment on any proposed changes before a final rule is issued.

The stakes for citizens and the nation are enormous. More information, not **less**, about proposed changes would best serve the public interest. Indeed, we hope the Commission would do everything in its power to keep the rulemaking process as open and inclusive as Dossible.

Kristen Zehner 118 Blue Spruce Marshall, Wisconsin 53559 From: wimhoa@charter.net

To: Mike Powell

Date: Thu, Apr 3,2003 7:01 AM

Subject: Preserve Media Diversity: Keep the FCC Rulemaking an Open Process

FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

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Kristen Zehner 118 Blue Spruce Marshall, Wisconsin 53559